CAN I TELL YOU, THAT WHOLE HEROES FOR HIRE THING? GENIUS. I MEAN, REALLY-- DO-GOODER SUPER HEROES WHO ACTUALLY CHARGE FOR THEIR SERVICES?
BRILLIANT. SO NEXT TIME GALACTUS COMES CALLIN', MAYBE REED RICHARDS SHOULD PUT A PRICE TAG ON HIS COSMIC GOTCHAMON?
AND THEN THE RATES YOU WERE CHARGING-- WOW! WHO COULD AFFORD THAT? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH BUSINESS THE TWO OF YOU SENT MY WAY?
SO...WHY'D YOU TWO MOOKS GO OUT OF BUSINESS (HE ASKED ALL SURPRISED)?
SHUT UP, DROOL--I'M IN THE AVENGERS NOW!
YOU ARE NOT!
HE IS.
THERE ARE NO AVENGERS ANYMORE!
THERE ARE, AND HE'S A MEMBER.
NO WONDER THEY'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET. NEXT YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME THEY RECRUITED SPIDER-WOMAN, TOO...

UHM... THEY DID.
BUT THEY DIDN'T ASK YOU!
SHUT UP, DROOL!
OKAY, BUT ONLY IF THE TWO OF YOU LEAVE WEASEL ALONE--HE'S A PAL AND ONLY I'M ALLOWED TO SMACK HIM AROUND.
SORRY, WILSON--HE HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING-- I WAS HIRED BY RAND-MEACHUM TO CLEAN THEIR SERVER, AND I DID!

YEAH, THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU'RE LOOKIN' T'RUN AWAY...
I'M TRYING TO RUN AWAY BECAUSE YOU CAN BENCH PRESS RHODE ISLAND!
YEAH, YOU GOT ME THERE...

SO WHILE MY BUDDY KICKS THE MUCUS OUT OF YOUR BUDDY...
...HOWZABOUT WE HAVE US A LITTLE TALK...
IF WEAS SAYS HE DIDN'T DO NOTHING TO YOUR COMPUTER, THEN HE DIDN'T DO NOTHING.
WE'VE BEEN BUDS FOR YEARS-- HE'S SAVED MY LIFE, I'VE SAVED HIS, HE'S SCREWED ME OVER, I'VE SCREWED HIM OVER--
MMFF
--I WAS TALKIN', SLIPPER-BOY!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW ABOUT WEASEL, HE DOESN'T LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL!
OKAY, HE DOES CHEAT AND STEAL--AND YEAH, OKAY, HE LIES, TOO--

--BUT HE'S MY BUD AND HE WOULDN'T LIE TO ME!
SO THAT MEANS I GOT HIS BACK ON THIS ONE EVEN IF IT MEANS I GOTTA SKEWER THE TWO OF YOU MEATBALLS!
OR GET TOSSED INTO A BRICK WALL.
OOMPH.
DID I MENTION THAT I WAS A HUUUUGE FAN OF THE YELLOW SILK SHIRT AND THE CHAINS?
ME, TOO, DRAWBACK: COULDN'T EVEN SHOUT OUT ALL THE BLOOD-STAINS.
YOUR BLOOD-STAINS?
...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF. CAN I SAY ONE MORE THING WHILE MY JAW REMAINS UNBROKEN--?
CAGE
--IRON FIST--WHICH IS A VERY GOOD PORN NAME, BY THE WAY--ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A BIG BRUISING BEST PAL WATCHING HIS BACK...

GAG!

CABLE, RIGHT?
WHY'S A MUTANT JESUS WANNABE STICKIN' UP FOR DEADPOOL WHEN THE GUY TRIED TO KILL YOU A FEW MONTHS AGO?
THE MEDIA DIDN'T QUITE GET THE STORY RIGHT. DEADPOOL SAVED MY LIFE.
HUMPH. BROKEN CLOCK'S RIGHT TWICE A DAY.
LUKE--YOU'RE SENDING MY INSURANCE PREMIUMS THROUGH THE ROOF!
DUDE, YOU DON'T HAVE A ROOF ANYMORE.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH MY POINT!
CAGE
THEY'RE ALL CLUELESS. LIKE FREAKIN' KIDS KNOCKING DOWN LEGO BLOCKS.
STUPID PLACE WAS PROBABLY BUILT BEFORE ASBESTOS REGULATIONS WERE ENACTED.
PROBABLY SUCKING IN DEATH WITH EVERY BREATH...
YOUR FRIEND IS EITHER SHOWING A COMPLETELY JUSTIFIABLE SURVIVAL INSTINCT OR HE'S GUILTY AS SIN.
ARE YOU WATCHING IT, TOO?
OR C) IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT AND BATTLESTAR GALACTICA IS ON.
I DIG HOT CHICKS--

"--WHO KICK @$$ ALL OVER THE GALAXY!"
OUTSIDE...
FIRST ONE WAS MORE DRAMATIC.
YEAH, BUT THE SECOND ONE NAILED THE LANDING.
WE ARE BAD GIRLS. YES, WE ARE.
BACK TO THE GRIND. BLACK MAMBA, ARE THEY ALL OUT?
ENJOYING THEIR GREATEST FANTASIES COURTESY OF MY DARKFORCE DIMENSION ECTOPLASM.
ASP, IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SOME HEAVY LUMBER GETTING SWUNG INSIDE THIS PLACE--
--AND THAT MAKES FOR AN ENTICING DOUBLE-ENTENDRE. BUT IT ALSO MAKES FOR MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS, SO...
...HOW LONG TO CONNECT TO THEIR SECURITY SYSTEMS SO WE SEE WHAT'S WHAT?
THIRTY SECONDS, DIAMONDBACK. I'M REWINDING THE STORED FOOTAGE--
--HERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE THE FACILITY--THIS WAS ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES AGO...

ASSUME THAT'S THE CLEANER WE TRACKED FROM CALIFORNIA--
--AND THAT HE'S STILL INSIDE.
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ASSUME...?
THIS JUST GOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN I'D PREFER.
AND THOSE PAJAMAS LOOK JUST LIKE--
YEAH.
HEAVY LUMBER, YOU WERE SAYING...?
YEAH.
WE DO PUT ON QUITE A SHOW, DON'T WE?
UH-HUH.

ALL THEIR FIGHTING KNOCKED DOWN THE PERIMETER SECURITY GRID.
OKAY-- WON'T GET ELECTROCUTED--
--SO I HAVE TO SURVIVE DEATH BY A THOUSAND PAPER CUTS...
DANG--THAT WAS MY FAVORITE J.C. PENNEY'S SHIRT...
CAR'S RIGHT AROUND THE--
GAAK!
WHAT IS GOING ON, WEAS?
NOT MUCH, WADE. SO...HOW YOU BEEN?
ANYTHING NEW? HAVEN'T TALKED IN A COUPLE OF...
COMING CLEAN WOULD BE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT ANY MORE THAN WE WANT TO HURT YOU.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
AN' IF THEY DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, I WILL!
CAGE

YOU KNOW HOW THIS MAKES ME LOOK? I FINALLY GOT HIRED TO PULL OFF A JOB AND ONE OF MY BEST BUDS SCREWS IT UP FOR ME!
YOU WERE HIRED TO CLEAN RAND-MEACHUM'S COMPUTERS?
NO, TO STEAL THAT DOMINUS OBJECTIVE THINGAMABOB!
UHM... THAT WOULDN'T HOLD UP IN COURT, WOULD IT?
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE? I DID MY FREELANCE CLEANING JOB IN LA JOLLA AND LEFT THE HARD DRIVE THERE...
NO, IT WAS STOLEN BEFORE I COULD STEAL IT!
SO I THOUGHT YOU HAD DONE IT AND I FOLLOWED YOUR TRAIL HERE.
THIS MIGHT REQUIRE A POT OF COFFEE.
OR A FEW BEERS AT THE LEAST...
OH, CRAP, WE'RE THINKIN' ALIKE.
STOP IT!
SO... WHAT NOW?
MAYBE THIS WILL SETTLE THE MATTER?
WHILE I WAS CLEANING UP THE MESS WADE WAS MAKING...

I FOUND SOME SNAKES IN THE GRASS.
TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOOTAGE THEY RETRIEVED FROM THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.
SEE! I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
SEE! HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
HE DID GET ATTACKED BY THE REAL CULPRIT AND HE DIDN'T PLANT THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE THINGIE INTO YOUR COMPUTERS AFTER ALL.

OH, YES, HE DID.
WEASEL ATTACHED THE SECONDARY DRIVE AND PLANTED THE VIRUS *BEFORE* HE WAS ATTACKED.
I WOULD NEVER SAY "CULPRIT."
GUYS, GUYS, LISTEN, I KNOW THIS LOOKS BAD, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, REALLY--
YOU LIED TO ME, WEAS!
I STUCK UP FOR YOU AND YOU LIED TO ME!
HE'S ALL YOURS. TORTURE HIM. MAIM HIM. WHATEVER.
WE DON'T TORTURE OR MAIM.
ONLY 'CAUSE WE HAVEN'T GIVEN IT A TRY YET. WE MIGHT LIKE IT.
I JUST WANT HIM TO PURGE THE SYSTEMS OF THE VIRUS.
WELL, THAT'S OUR CUE. THEN-- MAMBA--!

BOYS, TRUST ME, AS FAR AS ESCAPE PLANS GO--
--NO ONE EVER COMPLAINS WHEN THEY WAKE UP TO FIND US GONE!
NO-- NOT AGAIN-- NOT AGAIN--

NOOOOOOO!

I THINK IT WOULD BE [redacted] THE BEST I JUST DIDN'T ASK...

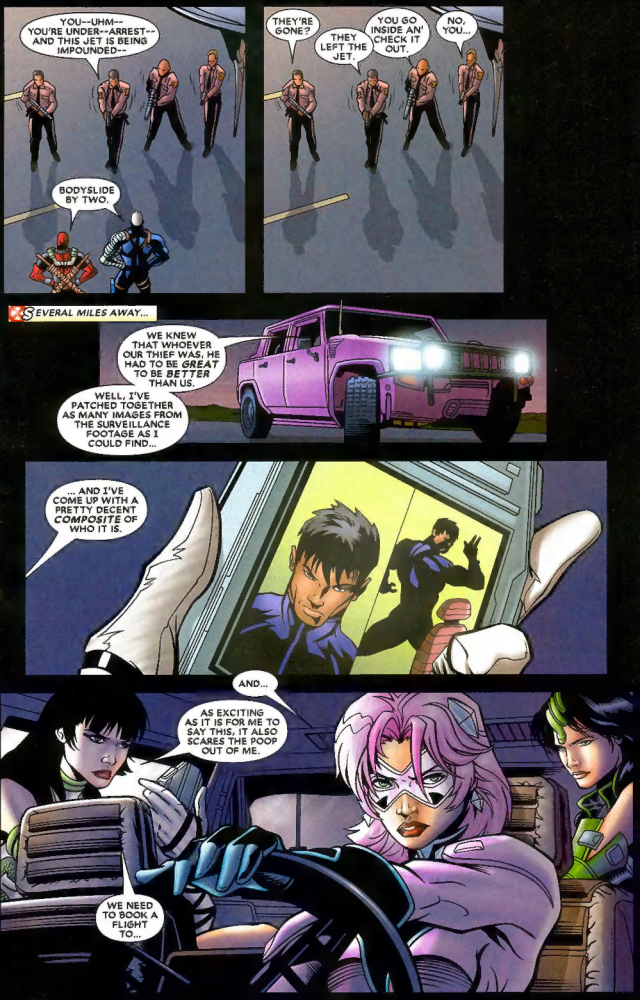
DID ANYONE ELSE HAVE A DREAM INVOLVING SUNTAN LOTION?
SERIOUS.

CAN WE GO INSIDE NOW--?
YEAH.
YES.
I'LL GO TO JAIL RIGHT NOW JUST TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
CAGE

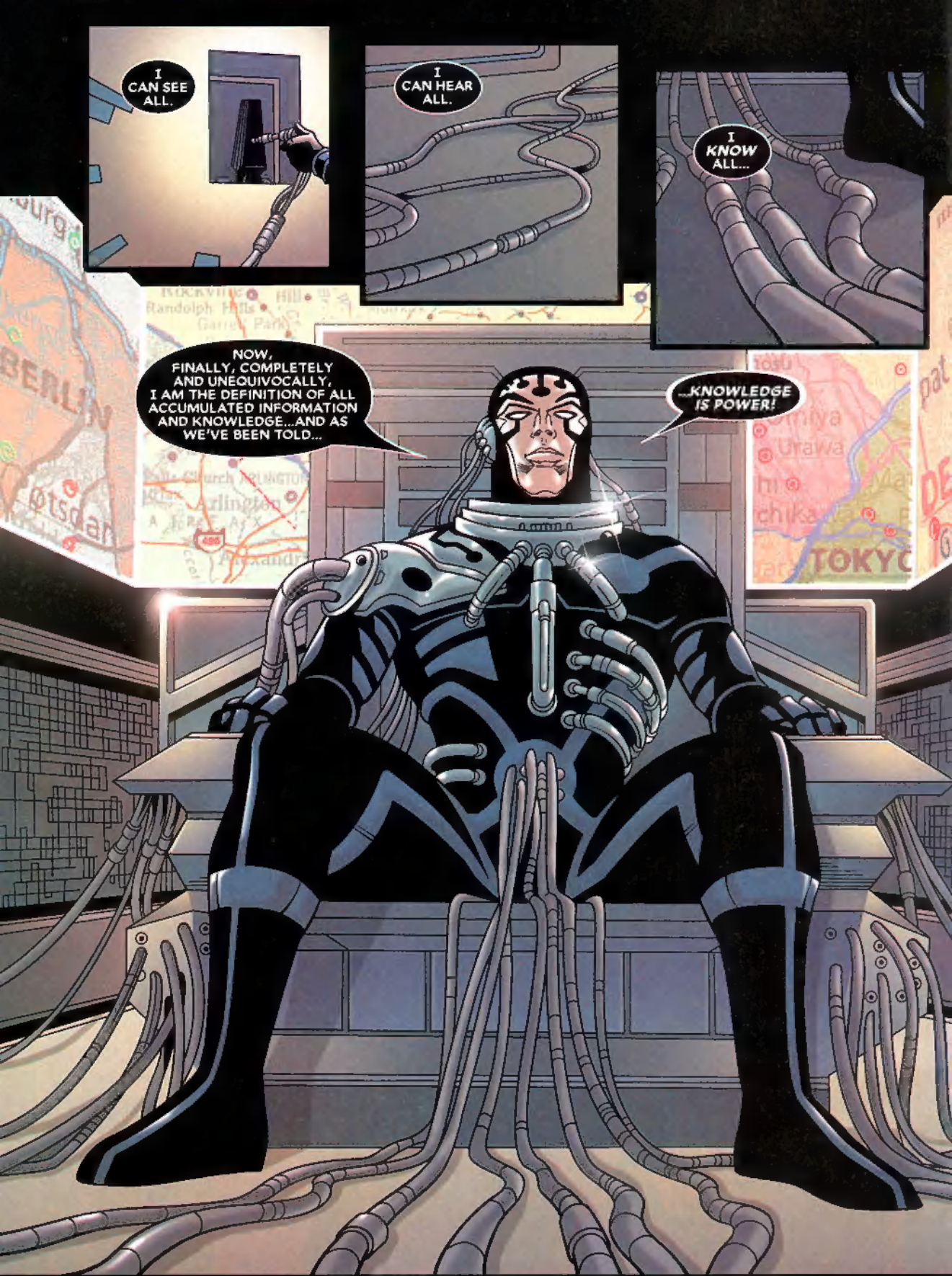
A FEW NERVOUS, BUT MANLY, MINUTES LATER...
SO WHEN I WAS IN LA JOLLA, I FIGURED OUT WHAT THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE WAS INTENDED TO DO--AND I WAS CURIOUS--
--SO ON THE FLIGHT TO KENNEDY, I PLAYED WITH A JURY-RIGGED VERSION OF IT--
--AND I COULDN'T RESIST TRYING TO SEE IF THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE WOULD REALLY WORK LIKE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO. SO...
YOU ATTACHED IT TO THE RAND-MEACHUM SYSTEM WHILE YOU WERE PERFORMING YOUR FREE-LANCE CLEANING ASSIGNMENT?
YEAH...
I WAS GOING TO SHUT IT DOWN ONCE I GOT HOME TO LONDON, HONEST. I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF IT WOULD WORK.
NO OFFENSE, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE RAND-MEACHUM IS EXACTLY WORTH KEEPING TABS ON. IT WAS JUST MY BETA-TEST.
SO CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN WHAT THIS THING REALLY DOES--BUT THIS TIME CAN HE DO IT IN...
ENGLISH!
HEY!
STOP!
IT IS A CENTRAL ROUTER.
IT LINKS ALL CONNECTED COMPUTERS INTO A SINGLE PROCESSING HUB.

ONCE THE SECONDARY DRIVE HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO ANY SYSTEM OR PROCESSOR, THEN ALL ONGOING AND BACKLOGGED DATA--
--CAN BE READ BY THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR THAT WAS STOLEN FROM LA JOLLA.
THIS WOULD BE A LOT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF WE HAD SOME KIND OF SYMBOLIC IMAGE OVER YOUR HEAD.
SORRY. I'M ALL OUT OF SUBTLE FLOATING IMAGES. NO TELEPATHY, REMEMBER?
S'OKAY. I'M PICTURING A MANHATTAN SUBWAY MAP NOW...
BUT WEASEL DETACHED THE DRIVE, SO MY SYSTEMS ARE CLEAR NOW?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ONE THING--HOW USEFUL IS THIS AS A LARGE-SCALE "LISTENING DEVICE" IF IT HAS TO BE ATTACHED TO INDIVIDUAL SYSTEMS?
WHAT SAY YOU ATTACH IT TO AOL'S MAIN PROCESSING SERVERS? OR MICROSOFT? [redacted] THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?
THAT'S BEING THE TREE TRUNK WITH THE BRANCHES GOING UP AND THE ROOTS GOING DOWN ALL YOURS.
I WAS A TREE TRUNK IN THE THIRD GRADE SCHOOL PLAY.
FRIGGIN' KID PLAYING THE DOG PEED ON ME...
WHAT IF THERE IS A PERSON WHO ALREADY HAS ACCESS TO ALL THAT INFORMATION BUT WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO...PROCESS IT...?
YOU KNOW WHO STOLE THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE FROM LA JOLLA AND ASSAULTED WEASEL HERE TONIGHT?
I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS, BUT WHY BOTHER WITH THE THIEF WHEN YOU KNOW WHO HIRED THE THIEF?
I'M GOING BACK TO PROVIDENCE. WADE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO TAG ALONG.
GIDDYUP! I GOTTA FIND WHO TOOK THAT THING SO I CAN TAKE IT FOR WHOEVER HIRED [redacted] TO TAKE IT!

WADE--- WHAT ABOUT ME? YOU'RE NOT GONNA HELP ME GET OUT OF THIS MESS?
I CAN DO THAT, WEAS.
YOUR CHOICE. MY WAY...
OR THEIRS.
SECUR
SECURITY
THANKS FOR NOTHING, WADE.
YOU COOL WITH LETTIN' THEM GO? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY CABLE SHOWED UP.
HE'LL SAY TO HELP WILSON, BUT THERE'S MORE GOING ON THAN THAT.
WHAT WOULD THE AVENGERS DO IN THIS SITUATION?
PROBABLY TALK ABOUT IT A LOT.
THEN BLOW THEM UP.
LET'S JUST LET THEM GO INSTEAD. MY SYSTEM'S CLEAR AND I'M SURE WHATEVER CABLE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE...
"...HE'S TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT..."
HEY, WAIT UP.
YOU COULD HAVE TRIED TO HELP YOUR FRIEND. I WOULD HAVE HAD YOUR BACK.
YEAH, I KNOW...
...THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T DO IT.


YOU--UHM--YOU'RE UNDER--ARREST--AND THIS JET IS BEING IMPOUNDED--
BODYSLIDE BY TWO.
THEY'RE GONE?
THEY LEFT THE JET.
YOU GO INSIDE AN' CHECK IT OUT.
NO, YOU...
SEVERAL MILES AWAY...
WE KNEW THAT WHOEVER OUR THIEF WAS, HE HAD TO BE GREAT TO BE BETTER THAN US.
WELL, I'VE PATCHED TOGETHER AS MANY IMAGES FROM THE SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE AS I COULD FIND...
... AND I'VE COME UP WITH A PRETTY DECENT COMPOSITE OF WHO IT IS.
AND...
AS EXCITING AS IT IS FOR ME TO SAY THIS, IT ALSO SCARES THE POOP OUT OF ME.
WE NEED TO BOOK A FLIGHT TO...

"...HONG KONG..."
I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE MADE ON MY BEHALF.
I KNOW HOW DISTASTEFUL YOU FIND TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES.
IT IS A MATTER OF BALANCE, BLACK BOX. THAT COUNTRY IS ALL BARK AND BITE--
--A LARGE, SNARLING DOG.
I AM A CAT.
YOU ARE THE BEST THAT MONEY CAN BUY, SHEN KUEI. SO, HAVING TRAVELED THE WORLD TO RETRIEVE THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE...
...WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO PLUG ME IN?
AAH, IT IS...OVERWHELMING... BUT IT WORKS EXACTLY AS ADVERTISED.


I CAN SEE ALL.
I CAN HEAR ALL.
I KNOW ALL...
NOW, FINALLY, COMPLETELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY, I AM THE DEFINITION OF ALL ACCUMULATED INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE...AND AS WE'VE BEEN TOLD...
...KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

NEXT: CABLE & DEADPOOL CRACK THE INTERNET IN HALF! THE BAD GIRLS FIGHT THE COOL CAT! BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THINGS START TO MAKE SENSE!! REALLY. WE MEAN IT.

THE LETTERS PAGE WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH! KEEP SENDING MAIL TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, AND MARK IT "OKAY TO PRINT."